

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below. In accordance with the PTO's revised amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Changes to the claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

By way of overview, claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-48 are currently pending (because claims 7 and 11 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer). The status of the pending claims is indicated below:

- a) Claims 1-6, 9, 42, 46 and 47 are currently amended;
- b) Claims 8, 15-17, 38-41 and 43-45 were previously presented;
- c) Claims 10, 12-14, 18 and 19 are original; and
- d) Claims 20-37 and 48 are withdrawn.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

an information tracking component configured to store, for each of a plurality of items, information describing the item;

a supply component configured to receive data describing one or more items [,] convert the received data into a format used by the information tracking component, and store the converted data as information in the information tracking component;

a publishing component configured to automatically select, based on pre-established selection criteria, for each of a plurality of subscribers, a different set of information from the information tracking component, and to communicate the selected set of information to local storage maintained by the subscriber, wherein the publishing

1 component is configured to perform the communication involves by transferring the
2 information to subscribers in advance of receiving requests from the subscribers
3 pertaining to modify the information; and

4 a subscriber request component configured to receive requests from the plurality
5 of subscribers and modify the information stored in the information tracking component
6 in accordance with the requests,

7 wherein the publishing component is further configured to identify one or more of
8 the plurality of subscribers affected by the modification to the information stored in the
9 information tracking component, and to communicate, to the one or more of the plurality
10 of subscribers affected by the modification, the information as modified.

11
12 2. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the information
13 tracking component is configured to store information regarding a plurality of assets.

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15 3. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the information
16 tracking component is configured to store information regarding a plurality of services.

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18 4. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the information
19 tracking component includes an information tracking database and a publishing database,
20 wherein the information tracking database stores is configured to store data describing the
21 plurality of items, and wherein the publishing database stores data identifying which of
22 the plurality of subscribers each of the plurality of items has been published to.

23
24 5. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing
25 component is further configured to perform the selection for each subscriber based at

1 least in part on criteria supplied by the subscriber, which defines the pre-established
2 selection criteria.

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4 6. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing
5 component is further configured to perform the selection for each subscriber based at
6 least in part on the information in the information tracking component describing each of
7 the plurality of items.

8

9 7. (Cancelled).

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11 8. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more
12 of the plurality of subscribers affected by the modification to the information stored in the
13 information tracking component comprise the ones of the plurality of subscribers to
14 which the information was previously communicated.

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16 9. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each item is an
17 asset available for purchase, wherein the subscriber request component receives is
18 configured to receive a request to reserve a particular asset, and wherein the publishing
19 component is further configured to communicate to selected ones of the plurality of
20 subscribers a notification that the asset is reserved and not available for sale.

21

22 10. (Original) A system as recited in claim 9, wherein the selected ones of the
23 plurality of subscribers comprise only subscribers that received, as part of the set of
24 information, information describing the particular asset.

1 11. (Cancelled).

2
3 12. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component
4 is further configured to communicate to one of the subscribers to delete information
5 previously communicated to the one subscriber.

6
7 13. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component
8 is further configured to automatically communicate, to one of the subscribers,
9 information in addition to the set of information previously communicated to the one
10 subscriber.

11
12 14. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component
13 is further configured to communicate, to the plurality of subscribers, modifications to the
14 set of information communicated to each subscriber.

15
16 15. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 14, wherein the
17 modifications include additional information describing additional items.

18
19 16. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 14, wherein the
20 modifications include deletions of information from the set of information.

21
22 17. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 14, wherein the
23 modifications include updates to the information in the set of information.

1 18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each item has an associated
2 time indicating when it is available, and wherein the publishing component is further
3 configured to communicate, as part of the set of information, only information
4 corresponding to items for which the associated times indicate are currently available.

5
6 19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber request
7 component is further configured to modify the information stored in the information
8 tracking component in response to a request from a particular subscriber only if an
9 appropriate fee is paid by the particular subscriber.

10
11 20. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:
12 maintaining a database of information regarding a plurality of items;
13 publishing selected item information from the database to local storage

14 maintained by each of a plurality of different subscribers in advance of receiving requests
15 from the subscribers, wherein the item information selected for publishing to a particular
16 subscriber is dependent on criteria submitted by the particular subscriber and the
17 information describing each item;

18 receiving, from one of the plurality of subscribers, a request to update the
19 information regarding one of the plurality of items corresponding to item information
20 published to the subscriber; and

21 communicating, to each other subscriber that the item information was published
22 to, a notification of the update to the item information.

23
24 21. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the update comprises a
25 change to indicate the item has been sold.

1
2 22. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the update comprises a
3 change to indicate the item has been reserved by one of the plurality of subscribers.

4
5 23. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising maintaining
6 a publishing database indicating which of the plurality of subscribers the item
7 information has been published to.

8
9 24. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-
10 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a processor to perform acts including:

11 storing, for each of a plurality of items, information describing the item in an
12 information tracking database;

13 communicating item information from the information tracking database to local
14 storage maintained by each subscriber, in advance of a request by the subscriber
15 pertaining to the item information;

16 storing, in a publishing database, data identifying which item information has
17 been communicated to each subscriber of a plurality of subscribers;

18 receiving a request from one of the plurality of subscribers regarding one of the
19 plurality of items;

20 updating information in the publishing database in accordance with the request;

21 accessing the publishing database to identify which of the plurality of subscribers
22 the item information has previously been communicated to; and

23 initiating another communication to each of the identified subscribers notifying
24 the identified subscribers of the update to the information.

1 25. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,
2 wherein the information in the publishing database includes a status of the item, and
3 wherein the request indicates a change to the status of the item.

4

5 26. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,
6 wherein each item is an asset available for sale via one or more of the plurality of
7 subscribers.

8

9 27. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,
10 wherein each item is an asset available for sale, wherein the request comprises a request
11 to reserve a particular asset, and wherein each of the other communications comprises a
12 notification to one of the identified subscribers that the asset is not available for sale
13 except to the subscriber from which the reserve request is received.

14

15 28. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,
16 wherein the computer-executable instructions further direct the processor to perform acts
17 including receiving a fee in exchange for updating the information describing the item in
18 the database in accordance with the request.

19

20 29. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,
21 wherein the computer-executable instructions further direct the processor to perform acts
22 including:

23 receiving additional information describing a plurality of additional items;
24 storing, in the information tracking database, the additional information;

1 identifying one or more of the plurality of subscribers to communicate selected
2 parts of the additional information to; and

3 communicating the selected parts of the additional information to the identified
4 one or more subscribers.

5
6 30. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

7 maintaining an asset tracking database that includes information describing a
8 plurality of different assets available for sale;

9 communicating different groups of the information to different ones of a plurality
10 of subscribers to allow the individual subscribers to offer the items about which it
11 receives information for sale;

12 receiving an indication from one of the subscribers to purchase the item; and

13 communicating a change in status of the asset to each of the plurality of
14 subscribers that had previously received the asset information.

15
16 31. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the change in status of
17 the asset comprises setting the status to a sold status.

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19 32. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the change in status of
20 the asset comprises setting the status to a sale pending status.

21
22 33. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-
23 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a processor to perform acts including:
24 communicating information to a plurality of subscribers, the information
25 describing an item available for sale;

1 receiving a request, from one of the plurality of subscribers, to reserve the item;
2 changing a status of the item to a reserved status; and
3 communicating the change in the status of the item to each of the plurality of
4 subscribers to indicate the item is not currently available for sale.

5

6 34. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33,
7 wherein the computer-executable instructions further direct the processor to perform acts
8 including:

9 subsequently receiving a request to cancel the reserved status; and
10 communicating another change in the status of the item to each of the plurality of
11 subscribers to indicate the item is again available for sale.

12

13 35. (Withdrawn) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33,
14 wherein the computer-executable instructions further direct the processor to perform acts
15 including:

16 subsequently receiving a request to cancel the reserved status; and
17 communicating another change in the status of the item to each of the plurality of
18 subscribers to indicate the item has been sold.

19

20 36. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:
21 maintaining information describing an item, wherein the information includes a
22 plurality of fields each describing an aspect of the item;
23 allowing a subscriber to identify which information is to be communicated to the
24 subscriber for local storage at the subscriber, wherein the identification is based on a set
25

1 of criteria that identifies particular criteria for one or more of the plurality of fields of the
2 information;

3 communicating, to the subscriber, the identified information;

4 subsequently receiving a request from another subscriber to alter a status of the
5 identified information; and

6 communicating, to the subscriber, the updated status of the identified information.

7
8 37. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 36, wherein the updated status
9 comprises a sold or sale pending status.

10
11 38. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the supply
12 component is configured to receive the data describing the one or more items in a
13 plurality of different formats, and to convert the data into the format used by the
14 information tracking component.

15
16 39. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber
17 request component is configured to receive requests from the plurality of subscribers in a
18 plurality of different formats, and to convert the requests into a defined format.

19
20 40. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the supply
21 component is configured to receive information having a data portion and an operation
22 portion, wherein the data portion includes data received from a source, and the operation
23 portion identifies an operation to be performed by the supply component.

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1 41. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 40, wherein the operation
2 includes at least one of: an insert operation which provides an instruction to add an item
3 to the information tracking component; an update operation which provides an instruction
4 to update an item in the information tracking component; or a delete operation which
5 provides an instruction to delete an item in the information tracking component.

6
7 42. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the publishing
8 database stores is configured to store data identifying which of the plurality of
9 subscribers each of the plurality of items has been published to, including subscribers that
10 have not submitted requests pertaining to the items.

11
12 43. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the publishing
13 database includes a status field used to identify the current respective status of the
14 plurality of items.

15
16 44. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 43, wherein the status
17 field identifies the status of the plurality of items with respect to each of the subscribers
18 that subscribe to the items.

19
20 45. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 43, wherein the status can
21 assume at least one of the states of:

22 an active status indicating that an item is available for purchase;
23 an inactive status indicating that the item is no longer available for purchase;
24 a deferred status indicating that the item will become available in the future;
25 a sale pending status indicating that there is a sale pending for the item;

1 a sold status indicating that the item has been sold; or
2 a reserved status indicating that the item has been reserved for potential sale.

3
4 46. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein ~~each item is~~
5 ~~identified by the information tracking component is configured to identify each item~~
6 using a plurality of fields, and wherein the criteria supplied by the subscriber is defined
7 with reference to the fields.

8
9 47. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein the system is
10 configured such that the criteria supplied by the subscriber is supplied by the subscriber
11 in advance of the subscriber making requests pertaining to the information.

12
13 48. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:
14 maintaining an asset tracking database that includes information describing a
15 plurality of different assets available for sale having defined aspects;
16 receiving respective criteria submitted by different subscribers defining aspects of
17 assets that the subscribers are interested in;
18 publishing different information to different respective subscribers' local storages,
19 providing that the published information satisfies the respective subscribers' submitted
20 criteria, thus allowing the individual subscribers, through the use of their respective local
21 storages, to offer the assets associated with the published information for sale;
22 receiving an indication from one of the subscribers to take an action with respect
23 to an identified asset; and

24
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1 publishing change-in-status information pertaining to the identified asset to
2 subscribers' local storages for those subscribers affected by the change-in-status
3 information, as determined by a publication database,
4 wherein the published change-in-status information allows the subscribers' local
5 storages, from which the subscribers conduct sales of the assets, to remain synchronized
6 with up-to-date information regarding the assets.

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